

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                    1.     A frame for a shelter structure comprising:

2                    an elongated flexible pole having a first end and a second end, said first and  
3                    second ends terminating in a substantially common plane; and

4                    at least one spar flexibly connected to said pole to form a flexible frame  
5                    structure.

1                    2.     A flexible shelter structure comprising the flexible frame structure of  
2                    claim 1 and a membrane flexibly connected to said flexible frame structure and defining a  
3                    substantially sheltered space.

1                    3.     The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane  
2                    tensions said pole and said at least one spar.

1                    4.     The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is arranged  
2                    substantially transversely to said pole.

1                    5.     The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is directly  
2                    connected to said pole.

1                    6.     The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is indirectly  
2                    connected to said pole.

1                    7.     The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar has a bent shape.

1                    8.     The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar has a first end and  
2                    a second end and wherein at least one of said first and second ends does not terminate in said  
3                    common plane.

1                    9.     The frame of claim 8 wherein said at least one spar has a first end and  
2                    a second end and wherein neither of said first and second ends terminates in said common  
3                    plane.

1                    10.    The frame of claim 1 wherein said pole is capable of assuming a  
2                    substantially arcuate shape under tension.

1                    11.    The frame of claim 10 wherein a tensioning means provides tension to  
2                    said pole and said pole assumes a substantially arcuate shape.

1                    12.    The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane is  
2                    connected to said flexible frame structure over said pole and said spars.

- 1                   13.     The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane is  
2 connected to said flexible frame structure intermediate said pole and said spars.
- 1                   14.     The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane is  
2 connected to said flexible frame structure intermediate said pole and said spars, and wherein  
3 a second membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure over said pole and said  
4 spars, thereby forming a space between said membrane and said second membrane.
- 1                   15.     The frame of claim 1 wherein said pole comprises a plurality of  
2 interconnected pole segments.
- 1                   16.     A flexible frame structure for a flexible shelter structure comprising:  
2 an elongated flexible pole having a first end and a second end, said first and  
3 second ends terminating in a substantially common plane; and  
4 a plurality of spars flexibly connected to said pole.
- 1                   17.     The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said  
2 spars are arranged substantially transversely to said pole.
- 1                   18.     The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said  
2 spars are directly connected to said pole.
- 1                   19.     The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said  
2 spars are indirectly connected to said pole.
- 1                   20.     The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said  
2 spars is capable of assuming a substantially arcuate shape under tension.
- 1                   21.     The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said  
2 spars has a first end and a second end and wherein at least one of said first and second ends  
3 does not terminate in said common plane.
- 1                   22.     The flexible frame structure of claim 21 wherein each of said spars has  
2 a first end and a second end and wherein none of said first and second ends terminates in said  
3 common plane.
- 1                   23.     The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein said pole is capable of  
2 assuming a substantially arcuate shape under tension.
- 1                   24.     The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein said pole comprises a  
2 plurality of interconnected pole segments.